Amendments to the Claims

This Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Previously presented) A resorbable extracellular matrix for reconstruction of cartilage tissue, said matrix consisting essentially of a purified collagen II derived from natural cartilage tissue from which non-collagen proteins have been removed, wherein said natural cartilage tissue is subjected to defatting, wherein said matrix consists essentially of fibres of native collagen II which are physiologically acceptable for implant into a mammalian body, said matrix having a pore size within a range of about 50 - 400 μm.

2. (Currently amended) A resorbable extracellular matrix as claimed in claim 1 having a pore size within a range of about 70 - 120 μm.

3. (Currently amended) A resorbable extracellular matrix as claimed in claim 1 containing at least one glycosaminoglycan (GAG) comprising about 1 - 15% by weight of said matrix.

4. (Currently amended) A resorbable extracellular matrix as claimed in claim 3 wherein said at least GAG comprises about 2 - 3% by weight of said matrix.

5. (Currently amended) A resorbable extracellular matrix as claimed in claim 1 having a density of about 0.18 - 0.22 g/m^3.

6. (Currently amended) A resorbable extracellular matrix as claimed in claim 1 wherein said matrix includes a material selected from the group consisting of at least one glycosaminoglycan

(GAG), chondronectin, anchorin II, cartilage inducing factor (CIF), insulin-like growth factor (IGF), transforming growth factor β (TGFβ) and a mixture thereof.

7. (Currently amended) The resorbable extracellular matrix of claim 1 wherein said GAG is selected from the group consisting of chondroitin sulphate, keratan sulphate, dermatan sulphate, hyaluronic acid, and a mixture thereof.

8. Canceled.

9. (Currently amended) A resorbable extracellular matrix as claimed in claim 1 which is derived from hyaline cartilage from pig.

10. (Original) A scaffold implant for promoting cartilage regeneration comprising the matrix of claim 1, said implant having a thickness of about 0.2 - 2 cm.

11. (Currently amended) The scaffold implant of claim 10 having a thickness of about 0.4 - 1 cm.

12. (Currently amended) The scaffold implant of claim 10, wherein said matrix is a carrier of a material selected from the group consisting of mesenchymal stem cells and a cartilage cell growth-promoting nucleic acid sequence.